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our friends who favor us with man a and illustrations for publication with a referred a riches returned they must appeared stamps for that purpose.

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the Ratiroads to Their Highest Efficiency.

The recommendations of the Inter state Commerce Commission that the raffroads of the United States shall be put on a plane of the highest possible efficiency by the repeal of those tatutes which now prevent their opration with due regard to the public sterest should be immediately enacted legislation by the Congress. Already in the great war emergency hamstrung the transportation system of the continent has been made apparent. The inadequacy of the railroads to meet the demands made on then in directly attributable to the hamper ing laws that prejudice and ignorance have put on the books in the past until those enactments are re sed in the light of reason and exerience, there can be no permanen porovement in the situation and lit tle temporary mitigation of the condi

tions which now exist. By following the counsel of the Interstate Commerce Commission the Congress would provide for the in relligent operation of all rathroads to a manner to serve the needs of the nation. The country would aid it the collection of the capital needed immediately to bring them up to at ficient standard, under the conse vative direction of the financial offi cers of the Treasury and bureau created to manage this important enterprise; and public and private investment would be safeguarded by proper control over securities of all

The raffroads must have capital they must be brought at once to a state of physical fitness for the stupendous task they are called upon to 1917, reads, "War Income Tax," perform. To provide this capital and to furnish the improvements needed no agency so competent as the United States Government can be improvised it intelligently and econ ically, no machine comparable with railroads can be brought together.

measure of war necessity of the duty posed prior to October 3, 1917. of assisting the railroads in financing They are not taxes designed to fall their necessary improvements, the upon such enhancements of personal Congress would begin a course of incomes as may be due to the war. practical instruction that would be There is no reference to the war in only to its individual members, but Tax." In this title the word war obthe constituents from whom they law and means "to defray war excome. They would learn in the school penses." of experience the magnitude of the operations that are essential to the income taxes is therefore to meet the maintenance of adequate lines, ter- expenses of conducting a war. It is a minals and rolling stock. They would "Wartime Income Tax" and not a be informed on the overwhelming War Income Tax" or a "Tax on War burdens imposed on private capital. Income"; that is, an increase of inwhich recently have been insupport- come traceable to the accident or forable because of unwise legislation and | tune of war. indexible regulation. The railroads | Now let us consider the second title have been in a straitjacket, when the of the act, "War Excess Profits Tax." safety of the country and the preser- This provides for a tax "upon the vation of its institutions required full income of every corporation, partnerliberty for development. Their eyes ship, or individual * * * equal to would be opened to the foresight that the following percentages of the net must be exercised to meet not only income"; and then the law states the the needs of to-morrow, but the re- percentages, and the method of de- that's just what we do when we buy quirements of years hence, and the termining the taxable net income, and things we can get along without. neulties, not in sending trains from much else: and the fallings of men.

The Interstate Commerce Commission points out the alternative to this all; it is an income tax. It falls on can get along without it!" by the President under his war pow- ships and corporations; it falls on his neck in work but not the least ers, and direct operation thereof un- those individuals and those corpora- flustered, comes back at us with: der his authority for the period of the tions which have capital and those conflict. Against this course the fact which have no capital or only nomthat the Government possesses no in- inal capital; for those who have instrumentality competent to the labor vested capital there are fixed percentof directing the roads, and the fact, ages; for those who have no invested attested by experience in numerous capital or only nominal capital there enterprises requiring the creation of is a flat tax on the net income. There Government bureaus, that the estab- is in very truth no basic distinction

ative in this matter should be perransportation system.

development, by replenishing their treasuries for the prosecution, under appropriate public control, of the new construction that must be undertaken, interests will not be sacrificed. This that prior to January 1, 1914. course will preserve all that is goodwonderful machines that, despite pub- of That of the Years 1911, 1912 and lic opposition, have been preserved in 1913." the railroad systems of the country.

The War on Impudently Bampant Selfishmens.

"The law of supply and demand," said the President in his war address, "has been replaced by the law of unrestrained selfishness."

Profiteering, the Chief Magistrate went on, has been "eliminated in sev eral branches of industry [many people would have been interested in the list if the President had given it]. but it still runs impudently rampant in others."

In the case of the farmers, for example. Profiteering is impudently rampant in their case, as the President points out; not, however, with the farmers as the profiteers; in his view they are the victims of the impudently rampant profiteering.

This is the special report which Mr. Wilson makes to the Congress and the country concerning the deplorable state of things afflicting our through which the nation is passing agricultural producers, the unjust the folly of the philosophy which has conditions oppressing our farmers, compressing them, as it were, between the two jaws of a vise operated by a relentless hand at the toggle:

"The farmers, for example, complain with a great deal of justice that while the regulation of food prices pestricts their income, no restraints are placed upon the prices of most of the things they must themselves purchase."

Why did the President content himself with mentioning the farmers as sufferers from this sort of inequity? How about the railroads, for another example?

Has he not observed in the case of the rullroads, with their incomes restricted by the regulation of rates and with no restraints on the prices of labor and other things they must themselves purchase, an injustace strikingly similar to that which excites his commiseration when he con

templates the farmer's lot? But no word, as yet, from the White House to encourage the railroads!

A Tax by Any Other Name.

Title I. of "An act to provide revenue to defray war expenses, and for other purposes," approved October 3, Title II, of the same act reads.

War Excess Profits Tax." under Title I. call for a normal trifling in proportion to its enormous taxes upon the incomes of individuals, tion of these that the burden on the the present operating managers of the citizens and residents of the United taxpayer can be reduced. States. These income taxes are them-Moreover, by the assumption as a selves additional to those already im- advised had be precipitated an un-

of the greatest possible benefit not these except in the title "War Income also to the nation they represent and viously refers back to the title of the of this town will hope that the econ-

The sole purpose of these additional

stations and yards, but of providing Although the title speaks of a vices in the country to supply our the tracks on which they are to run, "profits tax" the text does not use the the rolling stock of which they are word "profits." but speaks only of demands. made up and solving the ever recur- "net income." The tax is not levied rent complications in which are ex- on the net income, but upon the inposed the frailties of human nature come equal to fixed percentages of the net income.

This, then, is not a "profits tax" at rse. It is seizure of the railroads individuals as well as on partnerlishment of such an instrumentality whatever between this income tax levwould involve months and possibly ied under Title II. and that income years of legislative and executive ex- tax levied under Title I. except that now and held for maturity it yields perimentation and dickering, argue the tax imposed by Title IL drags conclusively. The country has before in a more or less artificial standard it the illustration afforded by the ef- called "actual capital invested," by for a single circumstance sells about fort of the Government to build ships, which to measure the slice of income ten points higher. Purchased at the in which its intention to create a fleet it will take for the Treasury.

has been obstructed by inevitable To consider again the wording of quarrels, disagreements and dead- Title II.—"War Excess Profits Tux": locks. It is appailing to think of the Does it mean a tax on the excess of entiates the two bonds is that the

Not precisely. The sections under mitted to intrude in the delicate the title allow deductions based on mechanism of the already demoralised earnings in the years 1011, 1912 and 1913. The tax is therefore not de-The war plans of the United States signed to reach income which has exdemand that the railroads shall be panded in consequence of the war, brought in the shortest possible period but all income which has expanded its of time to the highest possible state of earning power; L. c., shows a higher ficiency. That can be accomplished rate of return on the investment, by ridding the country of the barriers within specified limits, since January that unwise legislation has erected 1, 1914. The meaning of "war" in to oppose their natural and logical the title "War Excess Profits Tax" is

evidently the same as in Title I.. "wartime" or "to defray war ex-The adjective "excess" in the title and by assuring the private investors has been disclosed as referring to the whose meney has built them that their excess of facome, or net income, over

Revising the wording of Title II. and that which is good is invaluable in the interests of truth, we find it -in their organizations, and give to should read: "Wartime Income Tax finger post to the fate of many things the United States the benefit of the Based on Earning Power in Excess

> Even this would be but imperfectly descriptive, since where there is no capital invested, or merely nominal capital invested, a flat tax of 8 per cent, is imposed on all net incom above specific deductions; these deductions having nothing to do with income or earnings in the years be-

fore the war. Does all this seem hardly worth while? It will have been thoroughly worth while if it leads some of us to abandon the persistent notion that the "war ex ess profits tax" is a tax on excess profits due to the war, or on excess profits of any kind or or profits of any kind. It is a tax on ncome with special reference to increases in the rate of return on an investment. Congress ought to revise the title which misbrands it, and which would be forbidden if there were a pure tax law as there is a pure food law. A tax cannot successfully be camouflaged, however And there is an exhibition of more virtue possible in so simple an ac as calling a spade a spade.

The Hylan Administration Begins

Mayor HyLAN's administration of the corporate affairs of New York may truthfully be said to have begun with a reduction of \$1,857,000 in the budget for 1918. The compilation of appropriations for next year, prepared by the Fusion Board of Estimate, has been reduced in that sum by a Board of Aldermen politically in sympathy with the supporters of Judge Hylan and Mayor MITCHEL has wisely refrained from attempting to force on his successor allowances for municipal expenses that he has been offcially informed are unnecessary and

not wanted. The amount of the savings thus ef fected has been sneered at as small. Actually it is large; the fact that we have become accustomed to governmental expenditures running into the billions does not make a matter of \$2,000,000 inconsiderable. That it represents a small percentage of the budget total is of no consequence Every assault on extravagance in spending the public's money is attacked as cheeseparing, because each item of waste appears small in comparison with the whole cost of government. The budget is made up of a vast number of appropriations. The sections of the law comprised many of them small in amount and ze, and it is only by careful regula

> Mr. MITCHEL would have been ill necessary dispute by trying to impose the judgment of the Fusion Board of Estimate on the Democratic Aldermen with regard to the amount of money a Democratic city administration should spend. He has adopted the wiser course, and the taxpayers omy shown in the preface by the Hylan administration will be justified by its record in office.

Helping a Kinsman of Ours.

There is no paradox in saving that the most important thing accomplished in the purchase of thrift stamps is negative.

It's not the quarters we lend Uncle we don't spend for ourselves.

Of course the old gentleman has to have money to buy goods and hire things done, but how in the world can he buy goods and hire things in this connection without necessarily done if we compete with him? And being in the class of those who have done if we compete with him? And There are not enough goods and serordinary demands and his emergency

Every time we buy thrift stamps we say to our well beloved avuncular kinsman:

"See here, you need what this will buy more than we do. Take it; we And the good natured fellow, we to

"I'll pay you 4 per cent. compound interest on every \$4.12 you lend me this way. Is that all right?"

"German Stamped." Here is a bond, a Government bond of one of our allies, which is a particularly promising investment. matures in a few years. If bought

onsiderably over 8 per cent. Identically the same bond except market and held for maturity this Tork.

second bond yields decidedly less. The single circumstance that differ-

consequences which would ensue if income over past years, an exchar due first bears a German stamp. This the influences which have been oper- to the war? makes it possible to buy and sell it on the German exchanges.

The stamp has nothing to do with the security of the bond or the actual value of it. It merely affects the want a bond bearing a German stamp. Therefore they will pay only \$75 for this German stamped bond where they will pay \$85 or more for the same bond with no German stamp.

Curious, isn't it? Rather p cal, too, when the country that issues the bond is allied with us in the war against Germany; when the payment of interest and repayment of principal are as certain in the case of one bond as in the case of the other.

Yet the hard fact of the differe in prices is mighty significant of the feeling about nearly all things German to-day. And it points like a Jerman in the years after this war.

Putting aside all questions of economic and commercial discriminations following the return of peace, there will be for Germany a severe and long enduring punishment in the social ostracism she is likely to be subjected to-and social ostracism always means pecuniary loss.

There are no surprises in a race or a Wilson Congress

Thank heaven for that runaway balloon! No one suspected we had so many that one could stray away.

A trim nurse's costume is calcul to soothe tattered pocket nerves at any war charity function, and it does.

The Mexican bandit may be suscep tible to foreign propaganda, as allege but he has progressed beyond the infantile stage of making speeches. It is omething of an accomplishment to be

ubstitute for gasolene, amply filling the place of the old discoveries of perpetual motion.

Some are "left to strut their uneas our and be forgotten." others march

It may be held by some humanitarians that the death penalty, which advocated by Judge Malone, for charity swindlers is too severe. obody would object if each of them were kicked a couple of times by dissouri mule.

Washington at least leaves the door mat for the Bolsheviki to stand on while it considers opening the door.

President Wilson's reasons for ask is for a declaration of war against Austria-Hungary are reported "not to quite clear' to some persons in Vashington. They are clear to every ody outside the capital. What curius and unique atmospheric conditio btains on the Potomac to obscure hem to any dweller by that interest

M. Potrin, the Premier of the nev iberian republic, should have

Representative Kircuin, the Demo ratic leader in the House of Reprentatives, says he expects a vote on national prohibition and equal suffrage efore Christmas. How can all the ratory these subjects inspire for consumption "back home" be disposed of

Vienna bread may pass, but pilaff

FACING THE PROBLEM.

Let the Government Issue an Occupa-

there was an agitation when war first that the United States should hasten to is sadly lacking in culture, refinement, not be missed in a rush for the subway supply the country with ships so as to share of their business we all recollect; ture. The film is no longer in the same

inability to transact business. Of what avail is the buying of Liberty bonds if they have to be converted into | stage Sam that help him so much as those cash again through inability to carry on what trade one may have had? Does the Government, for example, issue a schedule or list of what is urgently I quired, and is there any opportunity to be of service to the Government direct made great fortunes as indicated by reference to increased incomes on the

first page of last Sunday's Sun? business you are in does not pay get Jeannotte Burns, speaking for her sister, into another or join the army regardless Miss Lucy Burns, well known militant as to whether you are of age or any suffragist, is reported to have said that other conditions; or else to take a post- at the convention of the National Womtion with some concern more efficient an's party, the militant sufrage organ-and useful: all of which we know the isation, a delegation from the National first time without being advised by the party will attend and that the members Redfields or others.

"They order these things better in cide whether to join with the other France, methinks." R. R. THOMPSON. NEW YORK, December 5.

TRADE BRIEFS.

Copal producers in Congo wish to develop new markets for the gum, and it is suggested by Vice-Consul H. A. McBride, Lendon, England, that a demand for the raw product might be created in the United States. Copal is used in the mak-ing of varnish. The Director of Economic ing of varnish. The Director of Economic Affairs, Boms, Congo, will send full infermation about this product to any Amer-

Japanese manufacturers wish to purchase equipment for the manufacture o glus. Drawings, specifications and all other information relative to installations

of this kind should be submitted. There is a market in Italy for black and white snap fasteners of various sizes. Samples of the styles wanted may be exmestic Commerce, 784 Custom House, New

American automobile manufacturere and makers of automobile accessories are asked to send catalogues and price lists to a con corn in the Federated Malay States.

REPRIBALS.

The Case for Not Answering Prightfulness With Prightfulness. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-SIT: Then

way to stop German Schrecklichkeit and outrages is through reprisals. Is it going to be a good policy to kill innoent women and children because the enemy does it? Because our civilians suffer have we any right to injure

harmless Germans? I think not! Surely there must be another way of defeating Germany than that of harming and taking and frightening amocent lives! Put the men that we would place in raiding airplanes on the firing line! Put

making of incendiary bombs into shot and shell that will find its mark in the trenches and not in a sleeping city!

Perhaps those who read this will say that since war is so horrible in all its manifestations a little horror more will merited sympathy as such; while as for do no harm; that war is so utterly demoralising that this taking of civilian demoralizing and does bring out all mine is the one from L. B. Wood, who the brute force in man, but there is a attacked the critic on the specific ground limit to everything, even demoraliza-

Supposedly we are fighting to make the "world safe for democracy." Is the way to go about it to use the same devilish schemes invented by German "Kultur" and authorized by that very which he or she was ashamed. Prussian militarism that we are in the act of suppressing? Do you think that our noble ideal will seem very noble to through the very means we are fighting

Will these reprisals make our ideal true one and keep the Germans from thinking we are fighting for purely eco nomic reasons? Will they? The barbarous Hun in centuries go

by poured hot oil down his prisoner's yours hot shot and shell, so to speak lown a civilian's back! Are we justified in gaining our end

Some say that if we treat the Ger an prisoners badly Germany will immediately coase molesting ours. Again I differ. A people whose instincts have seen so turned back to those of the rave man and the stone age man can hardly care very much if their prison-ers are maltreated. A people who have ot be moved by anything in the shape A victory brought about in this way be a material one, but spiritually

our souls will be seared. What good will this material victory over the Germans be when they know they have defeated us in soul!

ELSA OPPENHEIMER NEW YORK, December 5.

WHO'LL SAVE THE MOVIES? Film Director Laments Their Lack of Progress.

TO THE ED. TOR OF THE SUN-Str. was much interested in Mr. Brenon's letter on the subject of "Why Plays Fail," and especially that portion of it comparing the standard of productions in the picture theatres of New York with those riven over to the spoken plays.

While I am as deeply interested in the future of motion pictures as is Mr. Breon, both from an artistic and commercial standpoint, and freely admit that the scope of the cinema is infinitely broader than that of the spoken drama (the limits of the theatre being confined to the four brick walle of a theatre). I feel that if a comparison such as the one suggested by Mr. Brenon were made the picture would be the loser. The general the motion picture. Granted that the from an artistic standpoint it has sufthree or four years. And unless some- to postpone his attentions a night or two, directing its destinies in America I pro- his side. diet its total collapse financially,

originality, mentality, or a broad and or the 8:14. seize the opportunity to get into contact comprehensive understanding of the with South American trade and enable vital problems of the moment. To-day American manufacturers to get a larger there is no such thing as a "big" picclass with the spoken drama. It occu-Now that the necessary speeding up pies, figuratively speaking, a nook rang-process is on and that it is vital to have ing from 5 to 50 cents. Three years ago ore and more ships for the transports- it was almost crowding the drama to tion of troops and the exportation of the wall and at admission prices similar maries, it is a pity that we were not to those charged in first class legitimate more forehanded. However, the point theatres! These statements are not what I wish to bring to is that, owing Mr. Brenon calls "glittering general!-

to the lack of steamship space and to ties"; they are facts.
the so-called conservation list and to Mr. Brenon says that the newspapers the difficulty of obtaining licenses for are attacking motion pictures and ignorcertain commodities, and particularly ing the progress the film has made. But those called non-essentials, there are they are wondering why this progress many concerns who have about come to has not been turned into account, and the end of their resources through the why the camera, which has possibilities that make the stage pale into insignificance, cannot be made the equal of the -if not, indeed, its superior.

Perhaps Mr. Brenon can tell us. WILLIAM MOORE PATCH. NEW YORK, December 5.

THE NATIONAL PARTY. It Will Not Take Sides in Controversies Among Suffragists.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-SITE The answer may well be that if the published in your columns in which Miss of the National Woman's party will de groups in the National party. The statement says that Miss Burns declared "that the general leadership of the coalition movement is in the hands of J. A. H. Hopkins of New Jersey and John Spargo and others.

As the director of the propaganda and educational activities of the National party permit me to may very positively that the National party will not send any representatives to the convention of the National Woman's party. This was definitely decided upon at a conference of National party leaders which was held

The National party is wholeheartedly n favor of the Federal suffrage amend ment, which is the first plank in its platform, but it does not take sides in the controversy which has developed in the ranks of women suffragists upon the question of policy. JOHN SPARGO

Director of Propaganda and Publicity. NEW YORK, December 5.

Customer-I want a pound of sugar.

der-Anthracite or bituminous

THE CRITIC NO CYMIC. Some of the Things Reviewers of Plays

Have to Contend With. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-SW: I dramatic critics of the daily papers, their the public would be less prone to viet hem with savage contempt. I happe

to know, because I have been one of them (although outside New York); and I am free of the illusion that the criticyour own, for instance-is a supercitiou long paradise of free seats and fire nights, and who errs in sheer cussed That exceptions are cussed and other

exceptions corrupt is true, and just as true of any other profession. But the that the food is generally well cooked and sufficient. They are right in say-ing that the simple food and regular a broad black ribbon from his eye glasses, was a toller on a troadmill outdoor life have improved the health good ones, if ever organist deserved of officers and men. At the same time "Don't shoet" placard, so do they. But the letter which draws this o were not so good as it really is, the effect of fresh air, exercise and early hours would be decidedly healthful.

that he is not a guardian of the pu morals as exemplified in L. B. Wood, and complained that critics' encomiums ha nisled Mr. (or may it not be Miss?) Wood into taking "young relatives" to see no less than five plays, after each o When I say the public is savage as

critics I do not mean L. B. Wood, whose letter was quite moderate in tone. I was interesting because typical of large class whose viewpoint so example rates many studious theatregoers they could rage away their strength a it if they had not learned to ignore it. Now I am not exasperated, nor do think the Woods should be ignored. hink they have just claims on the new paper critic as a reporter. They peed not expect him to join them in warring on all plays tangent to the Seventh Com mandment from one direction or ar other; they may, I believe, expect their favorite newspaper to let them know theme or a color which they would pre

I admit that in L. B. Wood's ow case this might be hard to do. How t the world did L. B. read reviews of "Her Husband's Widow." "Madame Sand." &c., without being warned to take thos young relatives elsewhere? One would suppose the titles would be warning urely a crumb of knowledge of George Sand can be taken for granted in I think of a scheme under which I be

lieve the theatre would be even bette covered" than it is and we should al of us-the plain blunt man, the Broad way Jones, the L. B. Wood, the stage the author, the critic, the newspaper, the Dray-ma League and myself—be better served than we are. Will you, withou feeling that I am trying to tell you how run your business, allow me to sketch

that scheme briefly? Suppose two men be sent to each play the critic and a reporter. Suppose that a piece of straight reporting be all that is published next morning-a news story, telling, as the reporter might about a formal dinner, what the entertainment formal dinner, what the entertainment they were at home. In the trenches, cept in moderation, probably discipling was, who gave it, who took part, the or in camps in winter, they are prob- and efficiency would not suffer. haps, how many people were there, how they seemed to like it, and so on.

Then suppose to the critic be given Sunday page or two, whereon to say his week, appending his signature. It would save him practically all the London correspondent, referring to the obligation of quick reporting, which eats tank motto at the battle of Cambrai, up his space and his limited time as standard of the speken drama in Amer- him some chance to reflect, to clarify his English literary expert attributes the ideas and condense his expression of a vast improvement on the standard of them. True, there are plays born on Carlyle cinema has grown commercially and so much the better; the critic might Harts, a man held in high esteem by ber of men now employed in cities who technically, few people can deny that save his powder. And so many others British soldiers. According to Harts, younger days have been spent on the are seen at a disadvantage the first night a famous gambler died in California in fered a sharp decline during the past that I am not sure the critic ought no:

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: That can boast of are diverted largely to chan- his coffee the morning after an opening. It was the proper thing to make some sponsibilities of the farmer. nels of spoken entertainment. With per- On Sunday the reader has leisure for the recognition of the deceased's virtues egan between Germany and the Allies haps few exceptions the picture industry critic, whose fine shrewd touches would upon his tombstone. To the best of the ting away from the routine of offi-

New York, December 5.

LABOR AND RAILROADS. Contrast of Government Methods h Dealing With Both.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Str: IL s interesting to note the slacrity with which official Washington bestire to cater to the demands of labor. The anthracite miners who are at pres working under an agreement which has not yet expired, and who evidently re-

to be any nearer a solution to-day than ing of a teacher therefor. committee and proceed to Washington It is a misfortune that those who are with a big stick for the purpose of studying the language for purely philo-threatening a cleaning out of the halls logical or commercial reasons must sufof Congress, including the commission fer and await the advent of more attention has been called to an article itself? This is what labor does, and it pittous times when popular feeling will apparently brings results.

Since it is evidently impossible for the this could do no better than to emulate required. action taken by the tabor unions. It is both a disgraceful and alarming condition when the man who has his money nvested in railway securities must trem- GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP. ble in his shoes at the thought of sitting dly by and seeing that investment derecisted almost wilfully at the hands the agents of the Government.

Unless the Government soon wakes p to the situation and encourages rather han discourages investments in railway enterprises the investor is liable to close cluding those of the Government itself, and then the answer will be something different to contemplate.

WALTER JONES. READING, Pa., Decumber 5.

ince but a few weeks, sire, your faces Henevolent, conspicuous, Were beaming from all public places To coas our bumble votes from us.

No saving grace of modesty— And his antagonist defaming Regardless of veracity. To-day those portraits, forn and fattered.

Those boastful words in glaring print,
Dirty, undignified, bespattered,

His many virtues each precisiming.

Confront you. Can you take a hint? MARIETTA M. ANDREWS.

THE QUALITY AND THE QUANTITY OF FOOD AT MILITARY CAMPS.

Very Little Disease Due to Lack of One Kind of Food or to Pre-

People who are in a position

way. Only food that is really bad and

insufficient could produce effects upon

the nutrition of the men that would

rily indicate what the quality of food is. But the sick lists would show,

especially the incidence of intestinal

diseases, whether it was defective in

most commendable. At Camp Devens,

for instance, officers have shown great

is that they are well fed and well

served. Yet Camp Devens is not bet-

prudent to put in a word of warning against the gusty optimism of the

following statement which recently

appeared in a New York paper: "These men are being better fed, betappeared in a New York

ter housed, better looked after physi-

cally-from every standpoint-than

This whole remark is utterly illogi-

al. Many of these recruits have, un-

fortunstely, been too poor to pay for good food and lodgings. They are

strate much. It is somewhat uncon-

ter fed, better housed, &c., than when

they were at home. In the trenches,

vincing to say that soldiers are bet-

when they were at home."

casional visitor to the camps.

It would be a prefound mistake to ably not so well housed, certainly they pay any attention to pessimistic im-food, the main point is whether it pressions regarding the food at milicould not be studied with a closer retary camps. Apart from the anxiety lation to the conditions which inspired by disloyal anticipations, the nation is deeply concerned with the armies are likely to encounter in Lu rope. problem of supplying the men, not The best way to decide seems to be only with good food, but with certain to examine the rations in the light of

three years experience with food prot iems abroad. The ration of the Regular Army is likely to be monotonous. As a general rule, hashes and stews are too frequent. But the great defect of the army rations is related to trans port and metabolism. They are composed of foods which are bulky and oc cupy a great deal of space. This fault prove exceedingly troublesom when it is necessary to supply a vast army in Europe

A certain conclusion as to the quality One breakfast that is served is made of the rations cannot be drawn in this up as follows: Stewed fruit, fried mush, molasses and coffee. It is diff. this breakfast, unless a great deal is eaten at a meal. Meat should not b substituted for cereal, for an excess of meat is now known to be harmful, bu small quantity might be added to this breakfast and the cereal reduced for campaign purposes.

"It is 'admitted," says a bigo quality and variety or both. Figures European authority, "that many case: have not yet been published, but it of disturbances in the general health has been made obvious by the experi- in the form of a tendency to muscula. ence of the past six months that there weakness, weakness of the heart and is very little disease due to the absence similar forms of debility, may be verof one kind of food or to the pre- ned in soldiers as a consequence of a onderance of another.

In addition, it is just to say that the tamines, of which dried foods or food. supervision of the soldiers' meals is that require cooking at high tempera tures do not contain enough."

This opinion, published recently a

competence in taking charge of the Milan, is significant, for the meat rabill of fare, and it is the rule to have tion of the Italian troops was reduced an officer or sergeant in the messroom after much discussion. while the men are eating. The result point of view a breakfast of much and corn syrup, though doubtiess good under some conditions, is hardly suffiter fed than other campa.

In the matter of food it is hardly However, much depends upon the cooling to believe all that is said. A cer- and the baker. If they are capable and the baker is the army ration to think out a variety the army ration to ble. But, for various reasons, it is good enough for anybody. But it lacking in those things which make variety in themselves-condiments and vegetables, like spinach, radishes carrots, which are useful in prevent ing scurvy. Tomatoes are supplied perhaps too often for most men.

A new point has lately been dis cussed by Colonel Azan. In France our oldiers will be hospitably offered win-They are bound to refuse it, but win of good quality is certainly a valuable means of supplying warmth an now better off in these respects, but, energy, judged by their previous condition, the Italian energy. At present the French an soldiers have a wine ratio with the approval of most authorities It certainly seems a pity that our so diers must refuse what is hospitable offered, for if they avoided liquor, ex

"HE DID HIS DAMNEDEST."

longs to Marte! TO THE EDITOR OF THE BUN-BUT: 'The tank corps this day expects every ings are managed now. It would give tank to do its damnedest," says that an dimculties in getting farm help. origin of this use of

The idea may have come from Bret the days of '49, and his camp acquaintthing is done to save the picture from letting the reporter cover the opening ment. A collection was taken up and some of the small minded men who are alone, or perhaps with Mrs. Reporter at a committee of one was sent with the money to the nearest place where a ceive their salary with regularity mont The report would give the reader all tombstone could be obtained. Arriving by committee's limited knowledge of the work-men who are neither invalid departed he hadn't any virtues, but drunkards, jokers nor slackers-but wh since something had to be inscribed he are morally, physically and mentall gave this inscription: "Poker Jack | sound, albeit inexperienced, there are his damnedest; no man could do more." FRANK A. EGAN.

New ROCHELLE, December 5. GERMAN IN SCHOOLS. Falling Off of the Night Class at

De Witt Clinton. To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-SW: The study of the German language here in gard such an agreement as nothing but America has fallen to a low ebb and is a scrap of paper whenever it suits their being pursued by a smaller number of purpose, have just a few weeks ago asked students as time goes on. Every day we for an increase in wages. It took Mr. read where some school or institution of in the country would be \$60 a month Garrield just two weeks to decide upon learning, on one pretext or another, is exan advance in the price of anthracite punging it from the curriculum, and the coal for the purpose of accommodating latest development is where it will be thrown out of De Witt Clinton evening In contrast to the above the Inter- school, as the Board of Education does state Commerce Commission has been not consider the attendance at the Gerwrestling with this railway rate problem man classes large enough to warrant the for over three years and does not seem maintenance of such classes or the hir-

when it started. Is it not about time Of course, under such adverse condithat the investors organize a vigilance tions little can be done to stem the tide. have subsided after the war.

The attendance at De Witt Clinton nvestors in railroad securities to get a evening German classes is now thirtysquare deal in any other way they prob- six, which is nine less than the number

BENJAMIN A. WEATHERWAY. New York, December 5.

Arguments for It That Apply Equally to Private Unified Control.

To the Epiton of The Sun-Sir: No do not dictate more than fifteen let advocate of Government ownership for a day, only fourteen of which are a moment expects the railroads to be necessary. But I am concerned w run by others than those who run them the case of the four or five strong to

profit and many small roads lose money, rent a typewriting machine and the losses of the small roads could be painfully at the keys. It will teach met from the profits on the large roads patience, prudence, terseners. Dor without apparent loss to them, as the dependent upon the limitations of er-proportion is as cents to thousands of woman; ant?" ollars.

overhead expense of any business de- and dictate a mess of obvious a all railroads were financed from one constitutes employment. general . intre the saving would be so How many of these J. Cardialathinly settled sections of the country. Her; I can acrost guess.

F. L. UNION. NEW York, December 5.

TIED TO HIS SALARY Is Carlyle Getting Credit That Be- The Thing That Keeps a Man Fron Going Back to the Land.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN_SE was with interest that I read in Te SUN of November 29 a communication from one "A. E. E." in regard to requirement of a farmer that his his "damnedest" to have experience practically debars a whose fields of labor have been confinto the city. There are of course a nur farm, but whose interests have so los been associated with the city that it with reluctance that they leave it. T very fact that they have become acct tomed, perhaps for many years, to month deadens their initiative at n that they look fearfully

Of the men who are desirous of c -; died, July, 1849. He did many. But these, because they ar men, have voluntarily assumed responsbilities of family, &c., which make t almost impossible for them to relinquis their positions and become hired mer.

each receiving \$40 a month and a tenar. To cite a true instance: A man he a wife and mother to support. He is graduate civil engineer and has the corfidence of his employer, but being de strous of the life on the farm in epite of its attendant difficulties estimates that the lowest he could get along with exclusive of rent. The average farme. would feel that he could not pay an it experienced man, however excellent h moral and physical capabilities, eve-\$40 a month plus a tenant house, more less \$60 a month. To me the reason why the inexperienced city man desirour of doing a man's work on a farm an the needy farmer cannot get together

NEW York, December 5. POOR, HELPLESS MAN

Stenographer Points to the Weak ness of the Dictating Animal.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-SITE A. stenographer, nothing gives me more pleasure than the pictures in the advertisements of dictating machines There we see four or five tall, strong handsome men waiting in attitudes anger, anxiety or despair for and tall, strong, handsome man to finish d tating letters to the one stenographs

I suppose it is a true picture of a offices; as for my own, my emple now, the only difference being that the who are wasting away because profits would go to the Government in- time is being lost. I long to suream stead of to private capitalists. the picture: "Do it yourself, you is Many large roads earn an abnormal boobs! Write your letters by hand.

But they never will. They have be-Every one knows that per cent, in taught that it is business to set of creases as the volume increases, and if midic phrases and to believe that this

arge the it would many times pay for Smiths are able to perform any manual whatever loss there could possibly be labor more intricate than tying a Fin from bra ches that covered isolated and or whacking a golf ball? I don't w

GENTRUDE GRATIES NEW York, December 5.